Death

Today we will talk about a profound, intimate, and relevant topic that concerns all human beings. We will try to answer questions such as: What is death? Who is death? How does it act, how does it operate, and what results does it achieve? Why do we die? What happens when we die? Is there still a prophecy about death that needs to be fulfilled? Did Jesus, being God, die?

Is there an answer or answers to these questions? And if so, how sure can we be about the truth of these answers, and how can we know if they are truths or mere fables?

If at any point in your life you have questioned any of these things about death, I invite you to join me in discovering what God has to say on this topic, without distancing ourselves from our own experiences, because they are the ones that confirm the truth of God.

The Scripture says:

"A good name is better than precious ointment, ***And the day of death than the day of one's birth;***

Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the houseof feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart.

Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better.

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, *But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.*

It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools."
Ecclesiastes 7:1-5

A country at war or on the verge of being attacked establishes a protocol for its citizens and a defense system structured around different areas of risk. In the event of a bombing, the deafening sound of an alarm or siren carries an urgent message to all citizens, instructing them to head to the nearest air-raid shelter to protect themselves from imminent danger.

Citizens—regardless of whether they are rich or poor, merchants or professionals, women or men, children or infants, elderly, weak or strong—share the same priority: reaching the shelter. This is because, without a doubt, the approaching bomb does not discriminate against any of these factors; the risk is absolute.

When faced with such experiences, we can all agree that this specific scenario forces us, within seconds, to reevaluate our priorities and values. Undoubtedly, these will change radically.

Let us imagine a merchant making a sale: at the sound of the siren, he has only a few seconds or minutes to reach the shelter. His mind shifts instantly from thinking about future profits to literally running for his life.

There would be countless examples, as people's circumstances may vary, but the alarm’s call and its effect would always be the same: our priorities would change drastically.

In the same way, this passage of Scripture in Ecclesiastes 7:1-5 seeks to lead our hearts to a truth we often choose to ignore: death. It is as deafening as the siren; it calls for our attention from afar when we hear of accidents, wars, natural disasters, or pandemics. Death is everywhere.

But death also visits us up close when it takes a dear and beloved one—a father, a mother, a spouse, a child, a sibling. Its deafening sound paralyzes us, stuns us, strips meaning from everything we do; it robs us of goals, plans, and purposes. Yet, somehow, over time, we carry on.

“Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is .the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart. Will have their priorities and values in the right order."

Therefore, I believe that the topic every human being avoids discussing, meditating on, debating, and examining is actually the most important one in shaping how we live our lives: death.

"The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning."

It is interesting to note that, as a natural reaction, beyond changing our priorities and values, something inherent to all of us also takes place: the search for refuge.

A refuge represents that need for security in the face of danger, shelter from adversity, or protection from anything that could harm us. When we live without considering death, we are being negligent and unable to discern the imminent danger.

Let us consider an event that, nowadays, happens more often than we might imagine. You undergo medical tests, and as a result, you receive the "sad news":
"Unfortunately, we must inform you that you have advanced cancer; you have two months to live."

Let’s think about that for a moment: How would you take this news? Would your daily routine change? Would your interests remain the same? Would you still strive to become rich or acquire more and better possessions? Would you plan to buy a better car or a bigger house? Would you go to bed thinking about changing your furniture or how to pay for your next cosmetic surgery to improve your physical appearance?

Perhaps you would spend all your wealth trying to avoid death? What would you do with your little remaining time? Would you spend hours in front of the TV, watching science fiction movies, world news, or pornography? Would you go out shouting and fanatically fighting for your favorite football team?

I believe it is evident that our values and principles would radically change. But what Scripture tells us—and reality confirms—is that our time is always near. If we meditate and live with a heart that understands

these matters, then our principles and values will align with our thoughts:

"For that is the end of all men."

When death touches us closely, it seems that only at that moment do we awaken from our slumber to the reality of its existence. It is in those moments that questions flood our minds, and we begin to question the vanity of our lives.

Phrases such as: *"We are nothing," "We came into the world with nothing, and we can take nothing with us,"* start to emerge. Death becomes an absolute truth that strikes at our ego and pride.

The fleeting nature of time is another factor that assails our existence. If we are older, we see that the years have passed like the morning mist.

"You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."
James 4:14

If we are young, and the person whom death has taken was a child or also young, then we are confronted with the reality that the next person death may come for could very well be me.

Death is a ruthless, bold, and shameless figure, showing no distinction. It takes our loved ones from us, leaving us with destructive feelings such as guilt, denial, and victimization. We feel helpless, abandoned, alone.

I remember one of my own experiences when I was twenty-four years old. This happened in Australia, before I came to know my Lord Jesus.

As a result of my separation from my ex-wife, I was unable to see my son. The feeling of loss was so overwhelming that everything lost its meaning. This led me into such a deep depression that I ended up wandering the streets, neglecting my hygiene, my physical health, and my mental well-being.

My life was in constant danger. Inside, I was my own worst enemy, but externally, the world around me was also against me.

As I wandered, crowds of people passed by me, yet I felt invisible. No one acknowledged my physical existence, let alone accompanied me in my deepest emotions. My pain and anguish filled my thoughts so completely that the only escape I could see was to seek death—something I did daily.

One time, while roaming the streets, I approached a bar and observed people playing pool and other board games, but no one seemed to notice my presence. However, a man stood up from the table where he was sitting with two others and began asking me questions.

He was a Greek man. Despite the language barrier, we managed to communicate. Short in stature, slender, and with a pleasant appearance, he seemed to be around fifty-five or sixty years old. He invited me to play pool, but at that moment, the table was occupied by others. Perhaps because of that, and noticing my homeless appearance, he changed his invitation to a walk instead.

Desperate for someone to talk to, I did not hesitate to accept. He took me by the arm and asked my name and nationality. After just a few minutes of conversation, he felt like a lifelong friend. Soon, I shared my sad story with him. He embraced me and tried to encourage me. We talked for hours, and when we said goodbye, he told me his name: Albert. He invited me to see him again whenever I wanted, mentioning that he frequented the bar every night.

That encounter was like a drop of water in the desert. I had been able to share my anguish with someone who listened to me. Even though he didn’t give me any advice, I felt that I was not invisible to him. This meeting had been meaningful.

Two nights later, thinking about seeing Albert again, I took a shower and changed my clothes. The reality was that I desperately needed another hug, so I returned to the bar. But this time, Albert was not at the game table.

I asked if anyone had seen him, and a man pointed outside toward a building across from the bar. I could see police tape blocking the

entrance. I looked at the man in confusion, and he told me that Albert had hanged himself the night before.

I walked out of the bar, dizzy, in shock, unable to believe what I had just heard. I felt guilty for not having gone the previous night. A familiar voice in my mind began repeating: *"Everything you touch falls apart, you've never done anything right. You burdened Albert with all your problems. This is all your fault. You're alone again. You should end your life. He did the right thing by ending his suffering."*

I couldn't think clearly. Everything was dark and hopeless. I felt as if I had lost a very dear loved one, despite barely knowing him. I thought, *"Now I understand his silence. He did the right thing. I must also end my existence."*

That night, I slept in the cemetery, crying over a grave. I felt completely lost. I wished I were underground. I saw no way out of the darkness in my life.

My purpose in sharing this event from my life is to highlight some important points for reflection on death and its devastating effects. I had only spent a few hours with Albert; I didn't know him, I knew nothing about his life. So the question arises: *Why was his death such a heavy blow to me?*

I believe the answer lies in the fact that pain is found in loss and in the value it holds for us, not in what it represents for others.

For this reason, we cannot judge the depth of another person's suffering.

Jesus gave a great lesson when, in the temple, all the religious leaders were leaving their large offerings to be seen by others. However, He pointed out a woman who gave only a single coin, saying:

"This woman has given more than all of them, for she gave everything she had to live on; the rest gave only from their surplus."

We could say that our pain will always feel like the worst, and our loss, the greatest. We will find little consolation when confronted with examples of others who are suffering or going through terrible situations.

Death whispers in our ears, and knowing that it does should lead us to the importance of seeking God.

THE POWER OF DEATH

"Since then the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death (that is, the Devil),"

Hebrews 2:14

Death, therefore, holds an empire, and it is clear that human beings neither have the power nor the knowledge to overcome it, despite all attempts and desires to disable or destroy it.

"There is no man who has power over the spirit to retain the spirit; nor has he power in the day of death. And there is no discharge in that war; nor shall wickedness deliver those who are given to it."

Ecclesiastes 8:8

As we mentioned earlier, death is a dreadful entity; it is our invisible enemy, working in the shadows, destroying and stealing all our possessions, all our treasures, until, if possible, it brings an end to our earthly existence.

Death falls upon humans without prior warning. It is not an invited guest in our existence, nor does it schedule appointments or keep to a timetable.

The seasons—summer, autumn, spring, or winter—do not hinder its purpose.

It is not intimidated by the presence of the sun, nor can the moon or the stars drive it away.

Another aspect to consider is its cruelty: many times, it comes to people after prolonged suffering; other times, it arrives suddenly but with intense impact. It does not discriminate by age or vulnerability.

Perhaps, seeing it this way, it is understandable to fear it and to seek to do the “impossible” to avoid it.

The fact is that, just as our existence is real and undeniable, so is death, and it does not take our perspective into account. It does not have to justify its actions or explain why it does not distinguish between race or creed.

It even operates beyond the human realm, affecting animals of all species: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and insects. Likewise, vegetation, trees, and plants of all kinds fall under its dominion.

For many people, death is a mystery, and in the absence of answers, they react in different ways. I believe that, by far, the most predominant reaction is fear: the fear of death makes people avoid talking about it, mentioning it, or taking time to reflect on its existence. For these individuals, death is something completely removed from the equation.

"and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."
Hebrews 2:15

Through fear and dread of death, people become enslaved and subject to its rule.

Others prefer to pretend to ignore it, assuming that death will never approach or touch them. When such individuals are confronted with death up close, they simply suppress and hide their emotions, giving the impression of coldness. In reality, however, they are replacing their emotions with lies, denying reality.

Another strategy for facing death is to challenge it, pretending to be stronger than it. Engaging in extreme sports, taking exaggerated risks, or displaying physical strength are ways of confronting it with an appearance of bravery. Needless to say, those who take this approach will soon find themselves among the defeated.

Many seek death as a means of escape, usually to avoid suffering. Others impose it upon their fellow human beings by committing...

Crime, which we call murder. In many of these cases, people use death as a tool of power and control over others, not realizing that, on the contrary, it is death that is using them for its purpose. As we have seen, they are its slaves.

Death is also imposed by justice, what we call the "death penalty." It is used as vengeance or retribution for an injustice, but no matter what side we are on, death always triumphs and accomplishes its purpose.

I believe that, if you have come this far, we have made clear the power of death, and that it prevails in every case I have mentioned so far.

I want to urge you to continue with me, because from here on out, we will look together at what God has to say and reveal to us about death.

First, let's look at who created death.

You may be surprised to hear that it was God who created it. Let's carefully examine what the Scripture tells us.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”.
Génesis 1:1

"And out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The Tree of Life also was in the middle of the garden, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil."
Génesis 2:9

“Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, when the Lord has not commanded it?”
Lamentations 3:37

“I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and ***create calamity****; I, the Lord, do all these things.”*
Isaiah 45:7

“By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand ***pierced the fleeing serpent.”***
Job 26:13

“In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of ***adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing that will come after him.”***
Ecclesiastes 7:14

*“and to make all see what is the fellowship of **the mystery,** which from the beginning of the ages has **been hidden i**n God who **created all things through Jesus Christ;”***
Ephesians 3:9

*“Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and **die!"***
Job 2:9

*“But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and **shall we not accept adversity?**" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”*
Job 2:10

Secondly, we will look at where sin originated.

Once again, contrary to what we may think, sin originated in the heavens before the existence of man. Let's take a look.

*"Then God saw everything that He had made, **and indeed it was very good.** So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."*
Génesis 1:31

***"He has made everything beautiful in its time;** also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."*
Ecclesiastes 3:11

***"The earth was without form, and void;** and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."*
Génesis 1:2

Satan and one-third of the angels in heaven rebelled against God, the Creator of all things. Let's see how Ezekiel recounts it:

"You have been in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the turquoise, and the emerald, and gold. The workmanship of your tabrets and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were created.

***You were the anointed cherub who covers**, and I had put you in place. You were upon the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.*

You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you."

"By the abundance of your trading, you became filled with violence, and you have sinned. Therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God, and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I will cast you to the ground; I will lay you before kings, that they may behold you."
Ezekiel 28:13-17

Because of this event, the entire universe became contaminated.

"Behold, He puts no trust in His saints, ***and the heavens are not clean in His sight;"***
Job 15:15

"Behold, even the moon will not shine, ***and the stars are not pure in His sight;"***
Job 25:5

"For the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption *into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*
For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now;"
Romans 8:21-22

"For I have said, "Mercy will be built up forever; Your faithfulness ***You will establish in the very heavens."***
Psalms 89:2

"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God".
Romans 8:19

Thirdly, we will examine the origin of death in human beings.

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it, ***you shall surely die."***
Génesis 2:17

I believe we all know the story, so I will skip the details of how Eve, influenced by Satan, ate from the forbidden fruit and then gave it to her husband, causing their eyes to be opened and they knew good and evil.

However, I believe we must take a moment to understand the effects this action had, not only on Adam and Eve but also on all their descendants.

This act is often called sin, but in the context of the subject we are meditating on, this was actually the beginning of death in human beings.

As we will see below, humanity was contaminated, just as all creation and the angels who had rebelled against God. In a word, all were left in the same condition: **separated from God**.

"for all have sinned and ***fall short of the glory of God,"***
Romans 3:23

In this way, we can deduce that death is the separation from God.

From this, two very valid questions arise:

If they were the ones who sinned, why do I have to die?

"Therefore, just as ***sin entered*** *the world* ***through one man****, and death through sin, and in this way* ***death came to all people, because all sinned."***
Romans 5:12

“As it is written: ***There is none righteous,*** *no, not one;"*
Romans 3:10

The other question that arises would be: If this is the condition of humanity, are we all condemned?

We already stated that it was God who allowed this adversity. So, is God a tyrant?
What purpose or meaning does all this have?

"For ***He wounds****, but* ***He also binds up****;* ***He strikes, but His hands heal."***
Job 5:18

"Come, and let us return to the Lord; for ***He has torn, and He will heal us; He has stricken, and He will bind us up."***
Hosea 6:1

It is true, this topic is very complicated. The apparent incongruity seems solid and irrefutable: God is a sovereign being, creator of all things that exist, with all power, all knowledge, and infinite.

So, why does it seem like He mocks or plays with our lives and suffering?

This human reasoning often leads us to even deny the existence of God. We are inclined to think that those who insist on a good and perfect God do so only because of the longing for such a God to exist. Therefore, death, suffering, loss, and pain lead me to the feeling that **THERE IS NO GOD.**

Let’s see once more what God says about it:

The fool says in his heart, **"There is no God."**
Psalm 53:1

The Scripture provides us with answers to these questions and many others you may have, but, in order not to stray from the topic of death, I will limit myself to telling you about an event in the life of Jesus that demonstrates the immense love God has, not only for His creation but for you personally.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, *that whoever believes in Him should* ***not perish but have everlasting life.”***
John 3:16

This event marked a before and after for the history of humanity, and it can also mark a before and after for the history of your life.

About the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying:

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, ***"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"***
Matthew 27:46

We must emphasize that in His divinity, Jesus, being God, took the form of a man.

"Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to ***be equal with God,***

But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and ***was made in the likeness of men:***

And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient ***unto death, even the death of the cross.***

Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
Philippians 2:6-11

Jesus suffered the disdain of men, betrayal, insults, and misunderstanding; He was broken, punished, suffered physical pain, abandonment, and loneliness.

Isaiah, the prophet, described in great detail, more than four hundred years before, what Jesus, the Messiah, would suffer out of love so that our lives could have redemption. Let's see:

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation? For He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of My people was He stricken.

And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief: when You shall make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall My righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He has poured out ***His soul unto death:*** *and He was numbered with the transgressors;* ***and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."***
Isaiah 53:4-12

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, ***Christ died for us."***
Romans 5:8

"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
Matthew 27:46

Understanding that Jesus was God, yet subject to humanity, I believe that this moment in the humanity of our Lord was the most delicate, profound, painful, revealing, solitary, and traumatic that He chose to experience in order to pay the price for our souls.

Anyone who has experienced the "loss" of someone or something of supreme value can feel the shadow of this experience. I would venture to say that God made us in His image and likeness, and one of the many similarities we have with Him is the ability to partake in His suffering. God is LOVE, without a doubt, and love bears all things. By partaking in the suffering, we also partake in His LOVE.

This intimate and private act, revealed by His last words: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" teaches us beyond a doubt not only

that Jesus was counted among the wicked, but also the unity of Jesus with the Father and the anguish of that separation.

Dear reader, if this tremendous story had its end with this event, nothing would make sense; over time, it would become a story of tradition or a mere fable.

The truth is, the story continues, because this Jesus, who suffered on the cross for six hours and was taken by death, through this act CONQUERED DEATH, by RESURRECTING FROM THE DEAD!

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

*and that He was buried, and that **He rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures,*

*and that **He was seen** by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

*After that **He was see**n by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.*

*After that **He was seen** by James, then by all the apostles.*

*Then last of all **He was seen** by me also, as by one born out of due time.*

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."
1 Corinthians 15:3-9

*"But now **Christ is risen from the dead**, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

*For since **by man came death**, **by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.***

*For as **in Adam all die**, even so i**n Christ all shall be made alive**.*

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."
1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Jesus conquered Death, and even though the Scripture must be fulfilled which says:
"And as it is appointed for men to die once, *but after this the judgment,"*
Hebrews 9:27

Death for us, those who know the Lord and have been born again, will only lead us to His presence to be with our God eternally.

"O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
1 Corinthians 15:55-57

It is my prayer that God grants you understanding and opens the eyes of your spirit to conceive these biblical truths and know God. If you already know Him, let us build each other up in the joy and strength He brings us through His beautiful word.
As we have seen, sin produces separation and death. If we do not accept God's free salvation through the Son, at the moment of separation — that is, the "death" of our soul from the body — only eternal separation of our being from God will remain.

"And it came to pass, as ***her soul was departing (for she died)****, that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin."*
Génesis 35:18

Yes, there is a prophecy dedicated to death that is about to be fulfilled

Let's see what the Scripture says.

"When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And ***the name of him who sat on it was Death****, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth,* ***to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."***
Revelation 6:7-8

As we see in this passage of Scripture, in the time when the fourth seal is opened, something that will happen very soon, death will have the power to kill a fourth of the inhabitants of this planet.

Terrifying times are coming. Currently, an average of 200,000 people die each day; this means about three people per second.

"Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. ***There is a multitude of slain, A great number of bodies, Countless corpses— They stumble over the corpses—"***
Nahum 3:3

The world is armed with nuclear weapons and, with technological advances, is increasingly capable of mass destruction. Scripture describes catastrophic scenarios and armies that, in ancient times, were unimaginable or even hard to accept as truth, but today we no longer see them as fiction or something far off.

"And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."
Revelation 16:16

"And the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them."
Revelation 9:16

"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened."
Matthew 24:21-22

This passage is telling us that if God did not intervene in time, no human being would survive.

This world war will produce so many corpses and deaths that it says:

"And the house of Israel will be burying them for seven months to cleanse the land."
Ezekiel 39:12

"I will utterly consume everything from the face of the earth," says the Lord. ***"I will destroy man and beast; I will destroy the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, and I will cut off the wicked; I will wipe man from the face of the earth," says the Lord."***
Zephaniah 1:2-3

"He shall judge among the nations; ***He shall fill the places with dead bodies;*** *He shall crush the heads of many countries."*
Psalm 110:6

"I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.

I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth.

I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled.

I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down At the presence of the Lord, By His fierce anger."
Jeremiah 4:23-26

"Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

***And the rest were killed with the sword** which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh."*
Revelation 19:17-21

"The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."
1 Corinthians 15:26

"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."
Revelation 20:14

"*God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be* ***no more death,*** *nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. For the former things have passed away****."***
Revelation 21:4

Hallelujah!!! Death will be destroyed, AND THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH, it will be thrown into the lake of fire.

The Scripture reveals another gift for those of us in Christ

*"Behold, **I tell you a mystery:** We shall **not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."***
1 Corinthians 15:51-52

The children of the Most High eagerly await the coming of the Lord, and perhaps by His grace, some of us will be taken into His presence without seeing death.

*"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have **fallen asleep**, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*

*For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who **sleep** in Jesus.*

*For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who **are asleep.***

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. **And the dead in Christ will rise first.***

*Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. **And thus we shall always be with the Lord.***

Therefore comfort one another with these words."
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Conclusion

DEATH IS THE LIMIT THAT GIVES SHAPE AND MEANING TO LIFE.

I believe we must examine our hearts in light of the Scriptures. They exhort us to change our principles and values to align with the truth of our existence.

Our life does not belong to us; it was given to us with the capacity for choice, intellect, reasoning, and the knowledge of good and evil.
Death is necessary so that, using our faculties, we do not deviate into vanities, knowing that the end of everything is always near.

The rightful owner of our life claims what belongs to Him (our being). He approaches us with humility and love, giving us the freedom to choose to return to Him by our own will.

His call is loving, patient, full of goodness and forbearance, but in no way weak. It is powerful enough to destroy strongholds and powers that rise against Him. The greatness of all this is that all His victories are for us; His strength, for our weaknesses.

Even the greatest enemy we face, "death," surrenders at the feet of our King of kings and Lord of lords.
All glory be given to His Name!

David Malel
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